

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to claim 16 as reciting an “abbreviated image” when independent claim 15 refers to a “thumbnail image.” Claims 6 and 16 have been amended to refer to consistently refer to a “thumbnail image.” Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 8, 11-14, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Umebayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,765) in view of Berkema (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0002072). Claims 5-7, 9-10, 15-17, 19, 21 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Umebayashi in view of Berkema and Phillips (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0205504). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the image-related information corresponds “to the image data held in the holding portion.” In addition, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the output form instruction information is “determined by the user based on the image-related information.” This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, paragraph [0057] of the application. Independent claims 5, 8-11 and 15 have been amended to include one or both of these features.

In the pending rejection, the Examiner cites to Berkema as disclosing the claimed “operation portion accepting a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the image-related information corresponding to the image data held in the holding portion;” and the claimed “sending portion automatically sending the image-related information corresponding to the image data held in the holding portion to an external device at the designated destination in response to the user input on the operation portion.”

Berkema, however, discloses that a “Reference,” including the location of print data, is specified at a PDA and then communicated to a printer. The printer receives the Reference and pulls out print data based on the location of the print data in the Reference in order to carry out printing. In the pending action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed operation portion and sending

portion correspond to portions of Berkema in which a Reference is transmitted to a device that is capable of utilizing the print data. As described above, Berkema describes a system in which the print data is stored at a site that is not the printer—it is stored at the location specified in the Reference. The Reference in Berkema is not associated with data stored at the printer as claimed. Accordingly, Berkema does not disclose or suggest an image forming apparatus that includes “an operation portion accepting a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the image-related information corresponding to the image data held in the holding portion,” in which the holding portion is part of the image forming apparatus. Further, Berkema does not disclose an image forming apparatus that includes “a sending portion automatically sending the image-related information corresponding to the image data held in the holding portion to an external device at the designated destination in response to the user input on the operation portion,” as claimed.

In addition, the Examiner states the claimed receiving portion corresponds to “pulling print data of a form corresponding to the printer setting” in the Berkema reference. The claims have been amended to specify that the receiving portion receives output form instruction information that is “determined by the user based on the image-related information.” Berkema does not disclose or suggest that the output form instruction information is “determined by the user based on the image-related information,” as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections of claims 1, 5, 8-11 and 15, should be withdrawn. The rejections of claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, and 16-24, which depend from these claims, should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone

conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **325772033300**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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